

City of Milpitas
Unapproved Minutes
Telecommunications Commission
August 18, 2003

I. Call to Order & Roll Call:

Chair Alcorn called the meeting to order.

Members Present: A. Alcorn, N. Gupta, I. Munir, W. Lam; R. Gopalara D. Gupta, G. Ali-Santosa, V. Mathur

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, T Medina, A. Rich, E. Pasion City
Council: A. Gomez

Members Absent, A. Ettinger, P. Gupta, P. Peterson

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Commission recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Announcements:

No announcements made for the record.

IV. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S N. Gupta/V. Mathur Ayes: 8

**V. Approval of the Minutes
July 21, 2003**

Motion to approved the minutes as submitted.

M/S N. Gupta/I. Munir Ayes: 8

VI. Citizen's Forum

No comments made for the record.

VII. Continued-New Business:

1. GIS Update and presentation.

Alan Rich, Information Services Department Geographical Information Services (GIS) manager, provided a summary of the GIS mapping projects currently underway.

Mr. Rich noted that the following GIS mapping projects were completed and being used by Milpitas department staff for data analysis. The projects included Fire Department Run Maps, Fire Department Incident Study, Megan's Law mapping data and crime data statistics, zoning of the City's General Plan, Midtown Specific planning data maps and a revised citywide bicycle route.

GIS projects currently in progress include a commercial real estate base map and the mapping of the City's fiber optic cable network.

Mr. Rich also added that a majority of the data input and content creation were accomplished through the use of GIS student-volunteers from Foothill Community College.

The student-volunteers are from a GIS course where Mr. Rich is a part-time instructor.

Future GIS development projects may include; the database of city rental facilities and parks, expansion of the citywide bike map and additional telecommunications facilities. Eventually, this GIS information will be made available for sale to the public.

Mr. Rich demonstrated for the Commission the GIS mapping technology used with the Megan's Law base mapping project and citywide commercial restate mapping project.

He noted that the State of California and Venture County has sought out Milpitas' assistance developing a state wide mapping project based on the development of the City's GIS database.

The Commissioners asked whether other cities were doing similar Megan's Law GIS mapping projects with the same level of detail.

Bill Marion, Information Services Director, noted that only Fremont Police, San Mateo County Sheriff's Department, and the City of Palo Alto have successful in establishing a GIS Megan's Law database.

Commissioner Gopalarao noted that for future consideration the City's cellular service providers should also be added to the GIS database. This information will make easier to track for future research.

M/S R. Gopalarao/D. Gupta

Ayes: 8

2. Update of cable franchise Comcast Cable.

Bill Marion, Information Services Director, provided a summary of current activities involving the cable television franchise with Comcast cable.

Staff reported that it has completed a draft document of the cable franchise needs assessment. Copies of the report were distributed to the Commission for review. Staff noted that a majority of the cable franchise review has been completed and is waiting for final reports from Comcast's financial information and the Milpitas Unified School District needs assessment for educational support.

Staff reported that the telephone and web survey yielded sufficient data to be added to the needs assessment document. The telephone survey also provided a great deal of information on the how Milpitas cable television subscribers use and rate Comcast's service. The report found that Milpitas cable subscribers wanted more international multi-lingual programming along with several other items.

Staff also noted that through review of Comcast's grounding practices, the city's cable review consultant found numerous grounding violations that were documented in the needs assessment report.

Regarding cable access, staff reported that Milpitas cable subscribers were aware of Milpitas cable channel 15 and supported the expansion of additional cable channels for the school district and public access.

With the needs assessment information, staff hopes negotiate for additional items from Comcast to better serve Milpitas cable subscribers. Areas of improvement include better customer service response and enforcement needs, support for expansion of cable television service items and Internet connections to several city buildings through Comcast Internet services to name a few.

Commissioner Lam asked that the consideration of satellite services to provide local cable access cable and to have other cable service competitors service the Milpitas area.

Commissioner Gopal Rao asked that the city should seek greater control of bundled services and make sure provisions are in place to prevent red lining of cable services making the cable company's product available to all those interested.

Staff requested to the Commission to approve the draft needs assessment report and direct staff continue with the franchise review. The needs assessment report would also be presented to the City Council at its August 19, 2003, meeting as part of a discussion of Comcast's cable customer services report.

Motion to approve the draft report and proposal action items.

M/S V. Mathur/R. Gopal Rao Ayes: 8

3. July '03 Monthly I.S. Report

Chair Alcorn requested to defer questions to the September commission meeting.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S N. Gupta/V. Mathur Ayes: 8

4. Round Table Discussion.

Commissioner Gopal Rao asked if the city considered conducting the franchise negotiations with other cities. Staff noted that other AT&T-Comcast franchise renegotiations were already in progress or nearing completion.

Staff noted that the next Commission meeting would be held in the City Council Chambers due to scheduling conflicts with the Committee room.

VIII. Adjournment of Meeting

The Commission adjourned its meeting to Monday, September 15, 2003.

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